GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1618
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PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS .
Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) The total production of foodgrains in the country;

(b) Whether the production rate is lower than other similar countries while the cost of production is higher;

(c) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) The corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): As per the 4th Advance Estimates released on 15th July 2006, the total production of foodgrains is estimated at 208.3 million tonnes in 2005-06.

(b): Following table shows the production rate (productivity) of cereals and pulses in nearby developing countries in 2005:

Countries	Productivity (Kg./Hectare)	
	Cereals	Pulses
India	2367	612
China	5171	1887
Indonesia	4312	940
Thailand	2723	860
Bangladesh	3551	792
Pakistan	2563	756
Sri Lanka	3438	911
Myanmar	3689	951
World	3263	843

Source: FAO website.

It may be seen from the above table that the productivity of cereals and pulses in India is the lowest among the countries shown in the table. Country-wise comparable costs of production are not available.

(c) & (d): The productivity in a country depends, inter-alia, on rainfall, nature of soil, temperature, use of fertilizers, quality seeds and appropriate technology. In order to increase over-all productivity and production of cereals and pulses under specific crop based systems, Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals under the scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) are under implementation in the country as Centrally sponsored scheme. The Government is also implementing a Centrally sponsored scheme i.e. `Integrated scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM)` from 1st April 2004 to increase their production and productivity.